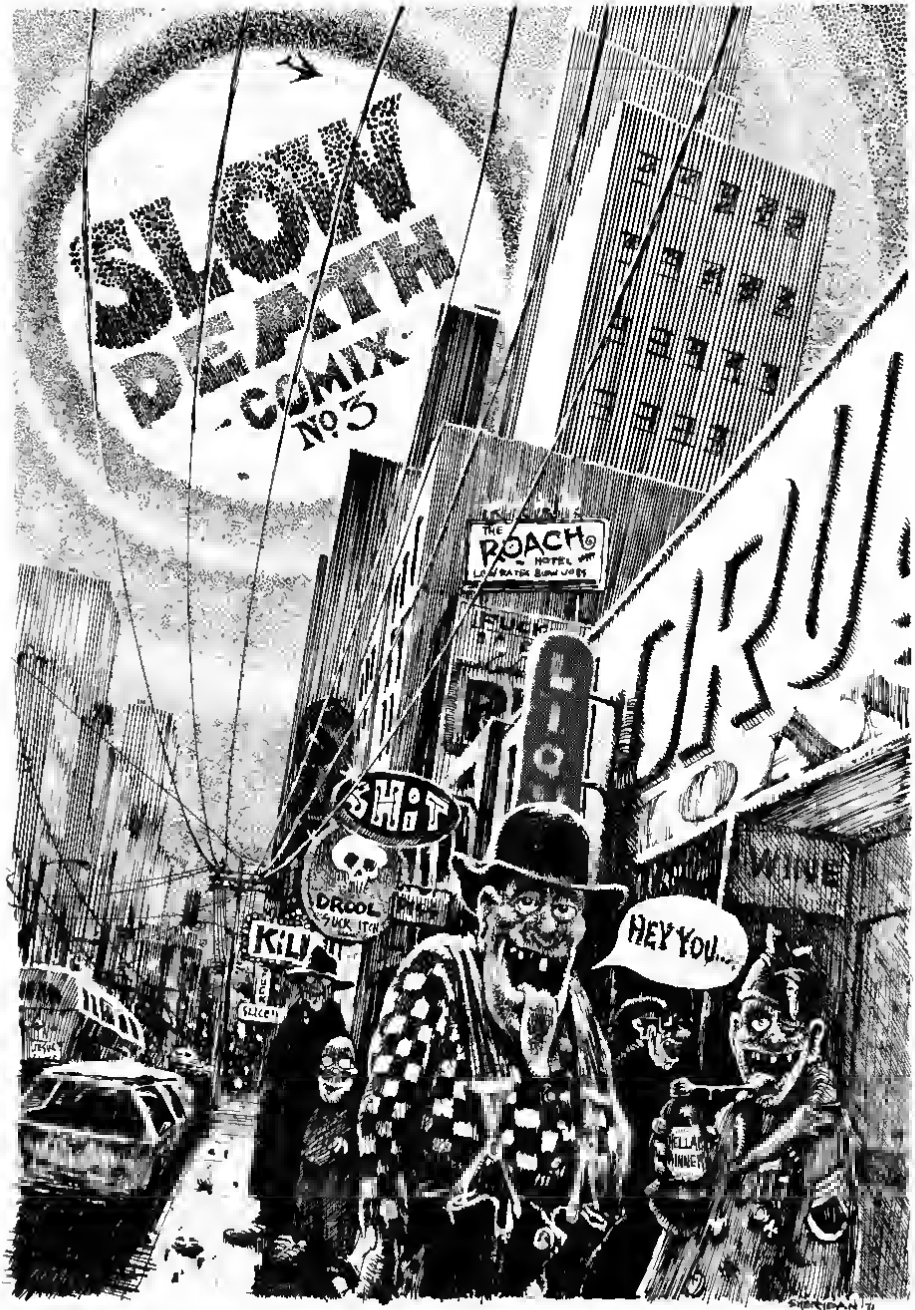
SLOW DEATH

#3

$1.00



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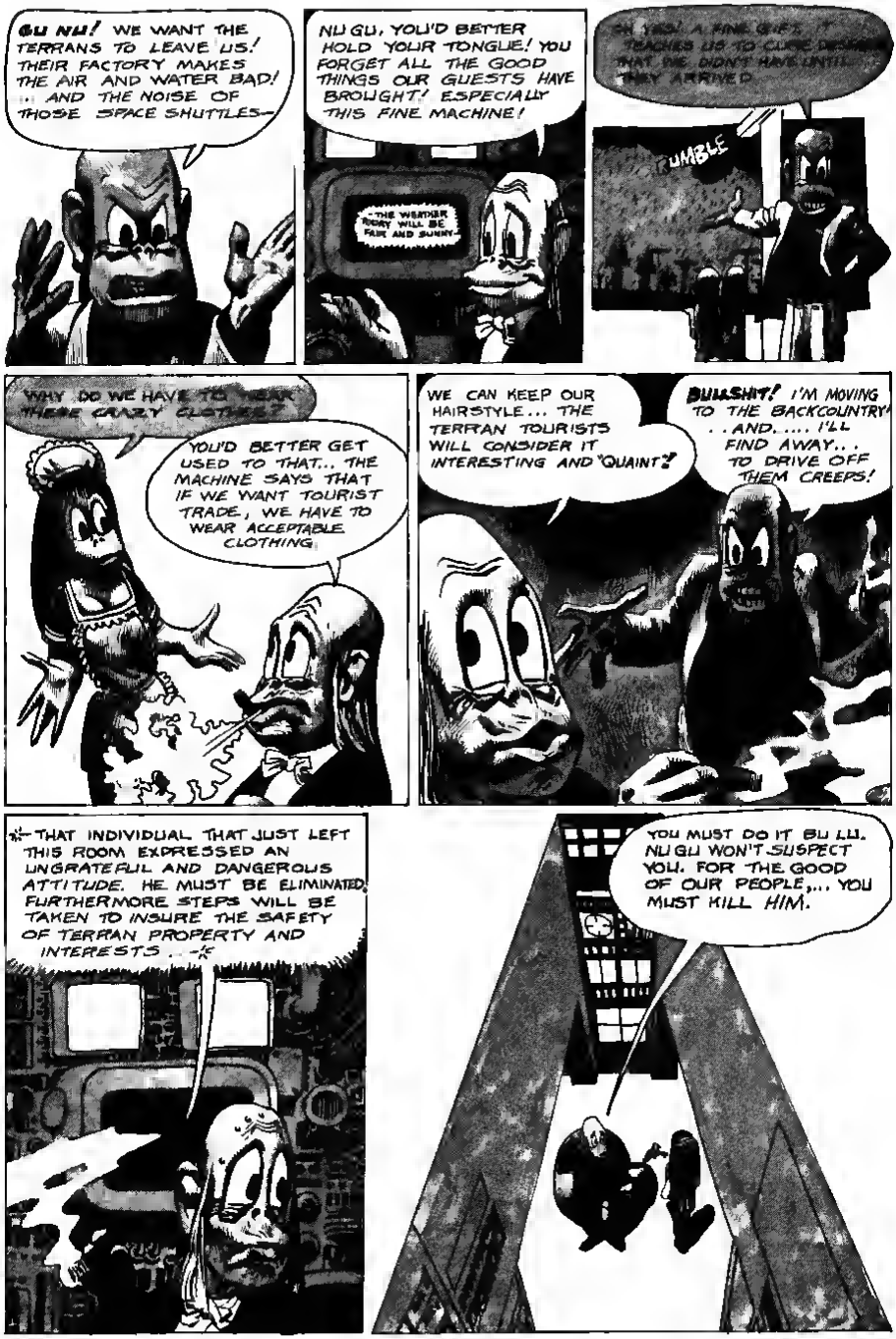
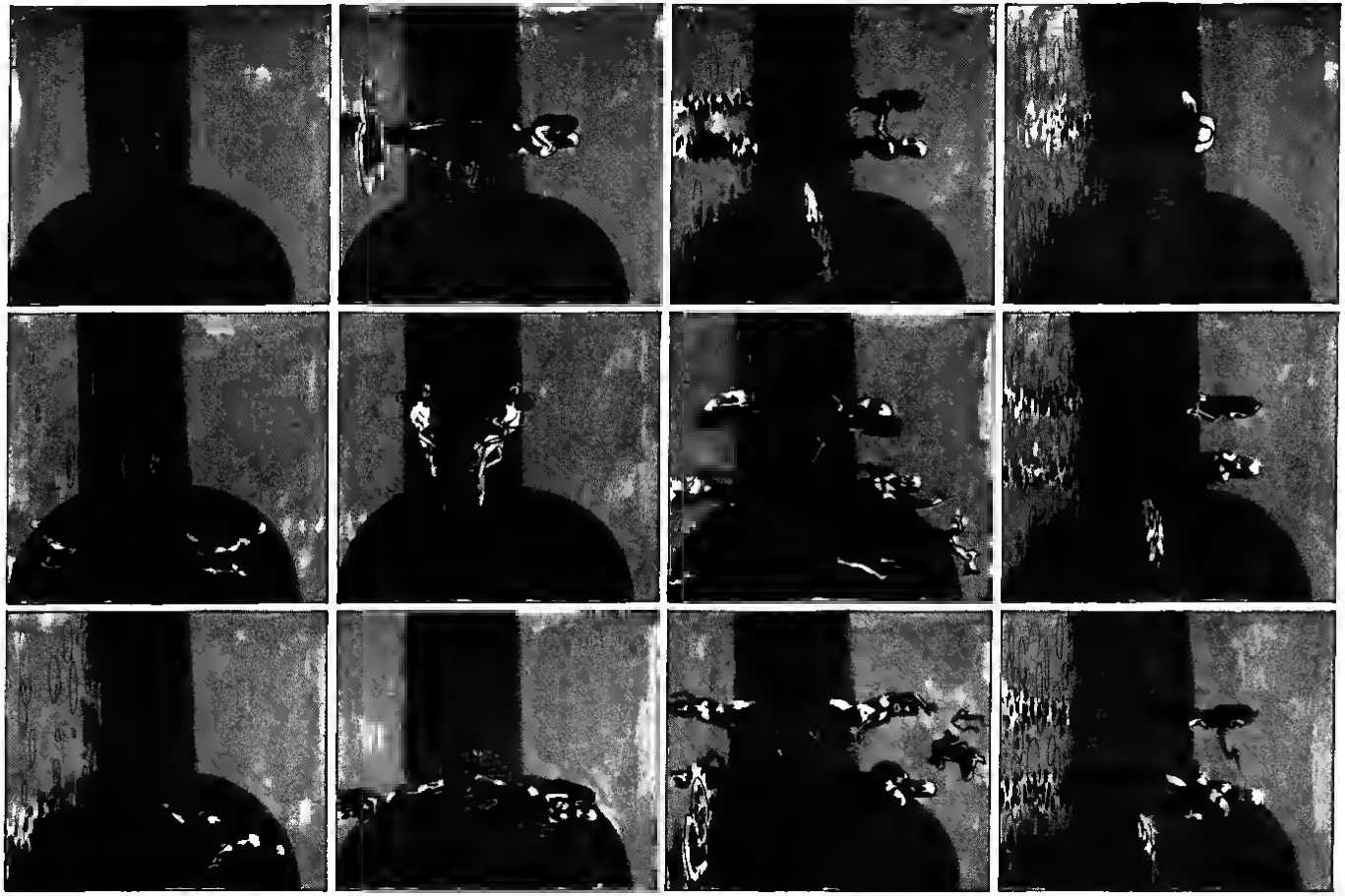
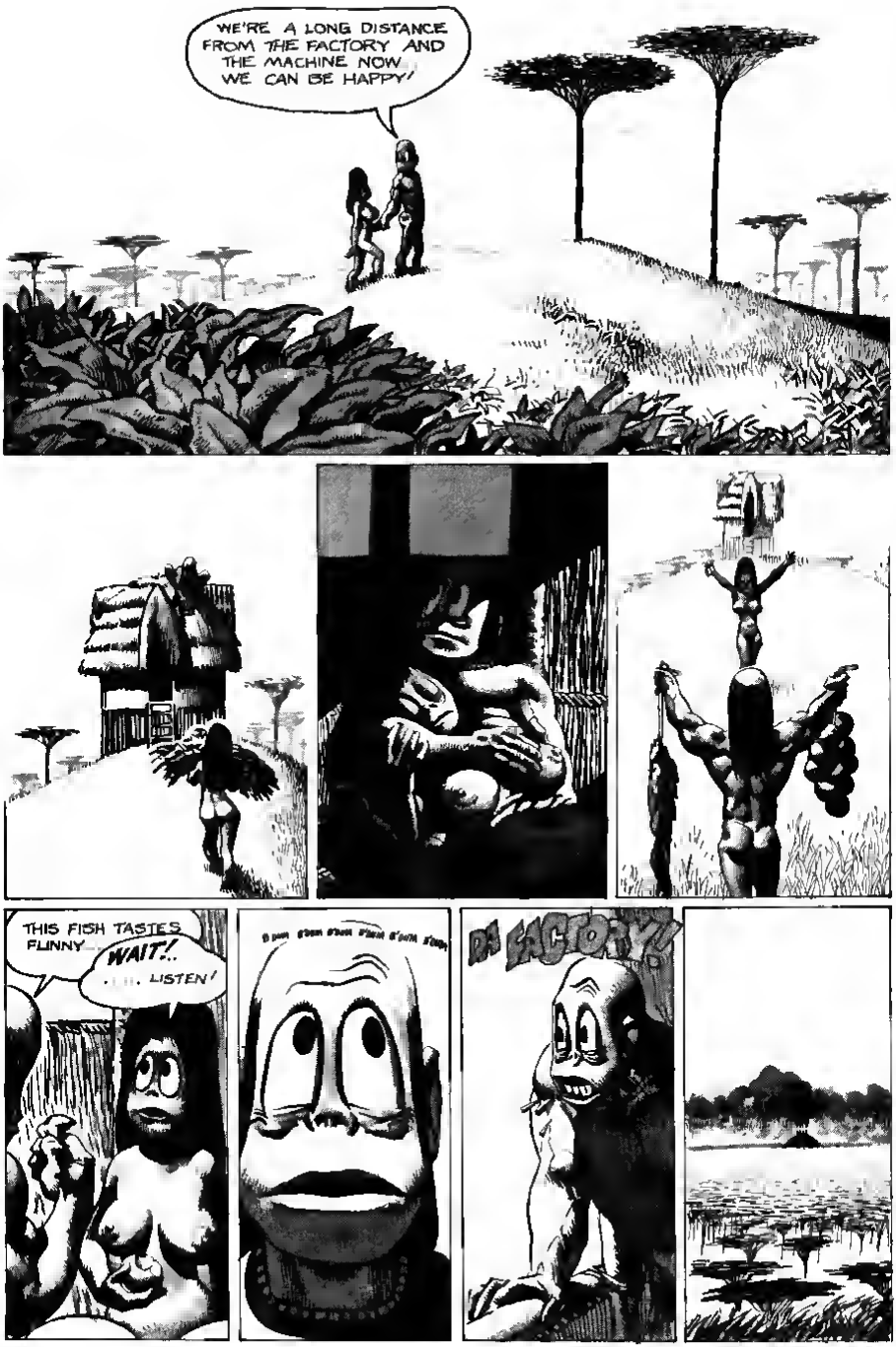
PUBLISHED BY LAST GASP ECO-FUNNIES, P.O. BOX 212, BERKELEY CALIF. 94701 • ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
ANY FOOLING AROUND MEANS A SLOW DEATH.... ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO R. TURNER, MAN. ED.

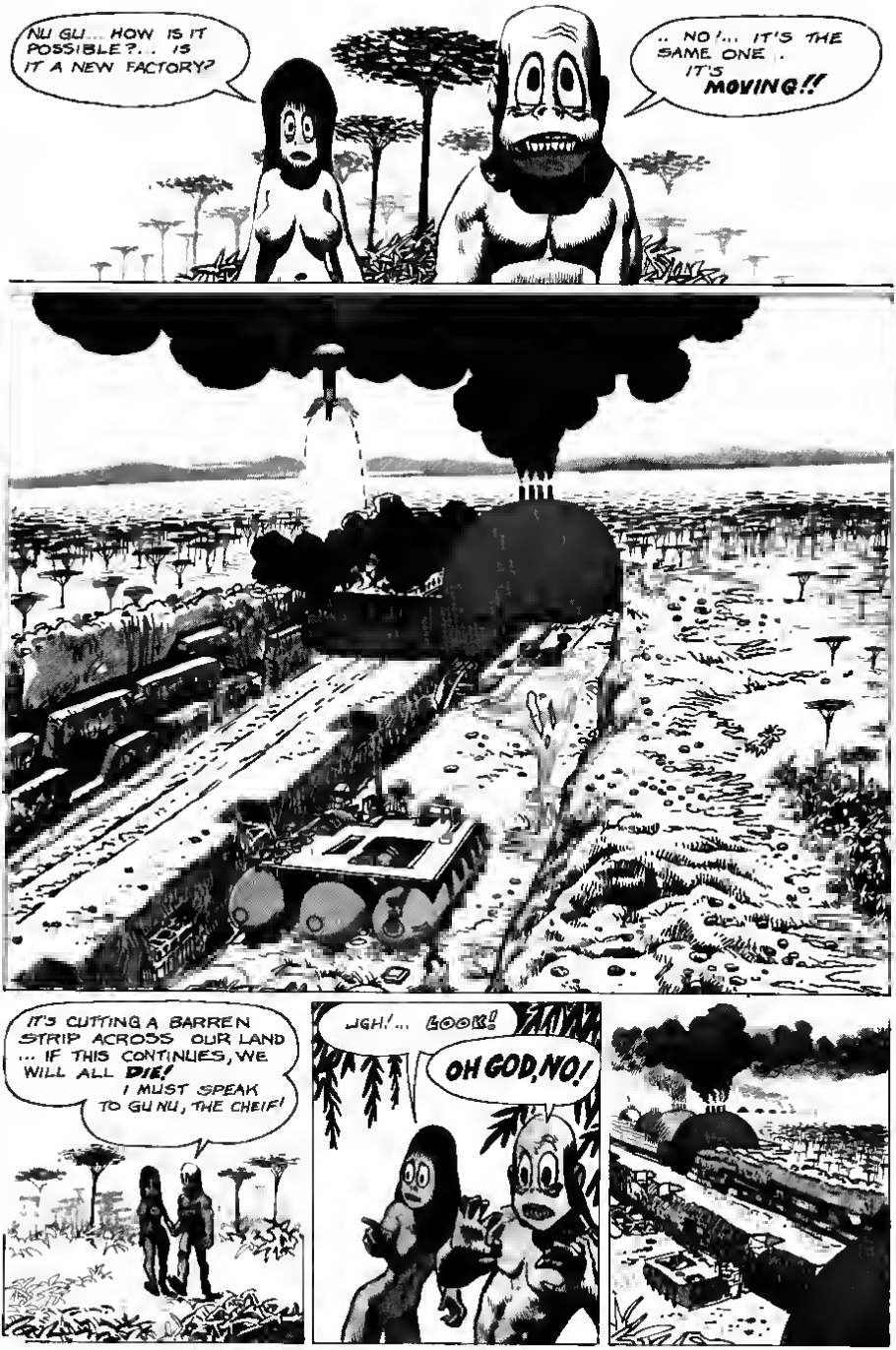
UUUNH! OOH! WOW! THAT'S DELICIOUS!
UUH! BABY!
LOOK! WHAT'S THAT?
SOMETHING CAME FROM THE SKY!
HELLO, PEOPLE OF CENTAURITHREE! WE COME IN PEACE FROM MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY! WE BRING WITH US THE WONDERS OF OUR ADVANCED CIVILIZATION!
JUST LOOK AT HOW PRIMITIVE THE SAVAGES ARE THEY'RE ANIMALS!
HAH! PASTER HILL WILL HAVE THEM BAPTIZED IN A WEEK!
LIEUTENANT, I WANT THOSE SAMPLES TAKEN AND ANALYZED WHILE I'M TALKING TO THE LEADER. BRING 'EM TO ME 'SOON AS THEY'RE DONE!
HI CHIEF! I BET YOU'RE SURPRIZED THAT I SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE

WHAT DOES GUNU SPEAK TO THE STRANGERS ABOUT?
LOOK NUGU! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
...AHH... I DUNNO. GUNU WILL TELL US LATER!
BACK TO THE BUSHES!
MY PEOPLE OF FUGU, THESE MEN HAVE COME FROM A GREAT ADVANCED SOCIETY. THEY SAY THEY WANT TO HELP US OUT OF OUR PRIMITIVE MISERY. THEY WILL TEACH US TO TRADE.
...AND TRADING WILL MAKE US RICH AND WISE. THEY WILL GIVE US A MACHINE, A BOX THAT TELL US HOW TO HEAL THE SICK, TELL US WHAT THE WEATHER WILL BE,... AND TELL US HOW TO COUNT OUR RICHES!
IN RETURN FOR THE MAGIC BOX AND THE RICHES THEY MERELY WANT TO USE A SMALL PORTION OF LAND. THERE THEY'LL BUILD A FACTORY. ALL IN FAVOR OF THIS PROPOSITION, LIE DOWN.
WHATSA MATTA NUGU, DONCHA WANNA BE RICH AN HAVE A MAGIC BOX?
I GOT A BAD FEELING THAT SOMEHOW WE'RE GONNA GET THE GREEN WEENIE!
B'DUM B'DUM B'DUM
B'DUM B'DUM B'DUM
PROGRESS!


GU NU! WE WANT THE TERRANS TO LEAVE US! THEIR FACTORY MAKES THE AIR AND WATER BAD! ... AND THE NOISE OF THOSE SPACE SHUTTLES--
NU GU, YOU'D BETTER HOLD YOUR TONGUE! YOU FORGET ALL THE GOOD THINGS OUR GUESTS HAVE BROUGHT! ESPECIALLY THIS FINE MACHINE!
THE WEATHER TODAY WILL BE FAIR AND SUNNY.
OH YES! A FINE GIFT. IT TEACHES US TO CURSE DESIRES THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE UNTIL THEY ARRIVED
RUMBLE
WHY DO WE HAVE TO WEAR THESE CRAZY CLOTHES?
YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO THAT... THE MACHINE SAYS THAT IF WE WANT TOURIST TRADE, WE HAVE TO WEAR ACCEPTABLE CLOTHING
WE CAN KEEP OUR HAIRSTYLE... THE TERRAN TOURISTS WILL CONSIDER IT INTERESTING AND "QUAINT"
BULLSHIT! I'M MOVING TO THE BACKCOUNTRY! ..AND..... I'LL FIND AWAY... TO DRIVE OFF THEM CREEPS!
THAT INDIVIDUAL THAT JUST LEFT THIS ROOM EXPRESSED AN UNGRATEFUL AND DANGEROUS ATTITUDE. HE MUST BE ELIMINATED. FURTHERMORE STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF TERRAN PROPERTY AND INTERESTS...
YOU MUST DO IT BU LU. NU GU WON'T SUSPECT YOU. FOR THE GOOD OF OUR PEOPLE,... YOU MUST KILL HIM.




WE'RE A LONG DISTANCE FROM THE FACTORY AND THE MACHINE. NOW WE CAN BE HAPPY!
THIS FISH TASTES FUNNY...
WAIT!..
...LISTEN!
DA FACTORY!


NU GU... HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?.. IS IT A NEW FACTORY?
.. NO!... IT'S THE SAME ONE. IT'S MOVING!!
IT'S CUTTING A BARREN STRIP ACROSS OUR LAND ... IF THIS CONTINUES, WE WILL ALL DIE! I MUST SPEAK TO GU NU, THE CHEIF!
UGH!... LOOK!
OH GOD, NO!

KOFF WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE? THE VILLAGE IS *KOFF* DESERTED!
WE'LL GO TO GU NU'S COUNCIL HOUSE!
IT'S BEEN REPLACED BY THIS PLASTIC STUCTURE. THERE'S FRESH AIR INSIDE!
-YES THERE'S FRESH AIR IN HERE; THE GASES AND SOOT ARE HARD ON THE MACHINES COMPONENTS. HELLO NU GU, BULU! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RETURNED.
YOU MISSED THE EXCITEMENT! THE PEOPLE REVOLTED AGAINST THE TERRAN MACHINE AND FACTORY. TERRAN TROOPS CAME AND SHOT THEM. THE SURVIVORS RAN AWAY... BUT THERE IS NO ESCAPE... WE WILL BE EXTINCT SHORTLY.
THE MACHINE HAS ALREADY REPORTED YOUR PRESENCE... THE GUARDS WILL TAKE YOU INTO THE STREET AND KILL YOU!... I'M SORRY...
YOU TWO! COME WITH US!! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
BLAM

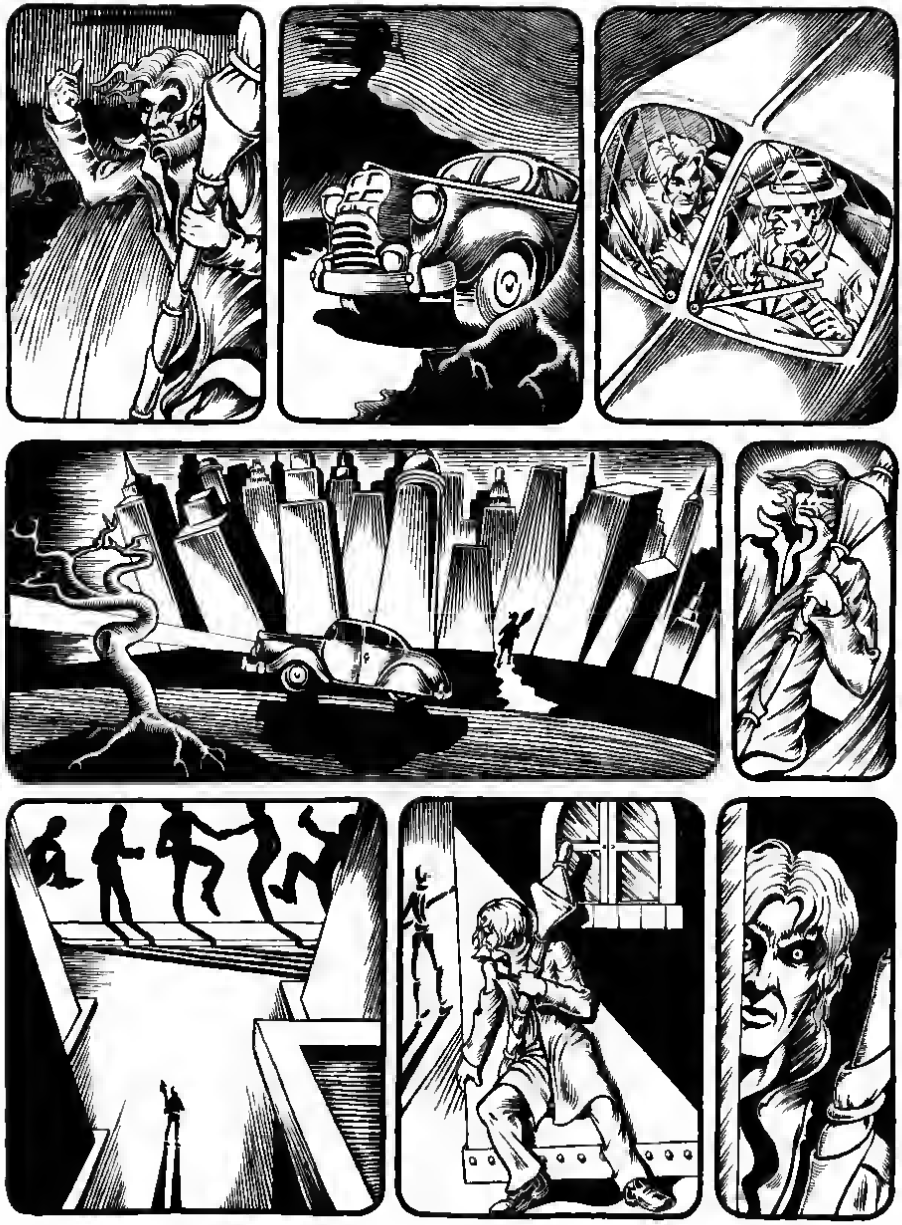
BLAM BLAM BLAM
LOOKOUT!
35
YAAAAAAAAAUK
BOMP
WHY DIDN'T THEY SHOOT? ARE THE OTHERS GOING TO ATTACK?
THE MACHINE IS VERY EXPENSIVE THEY DO NOT WISH TO DAMAGE IT.

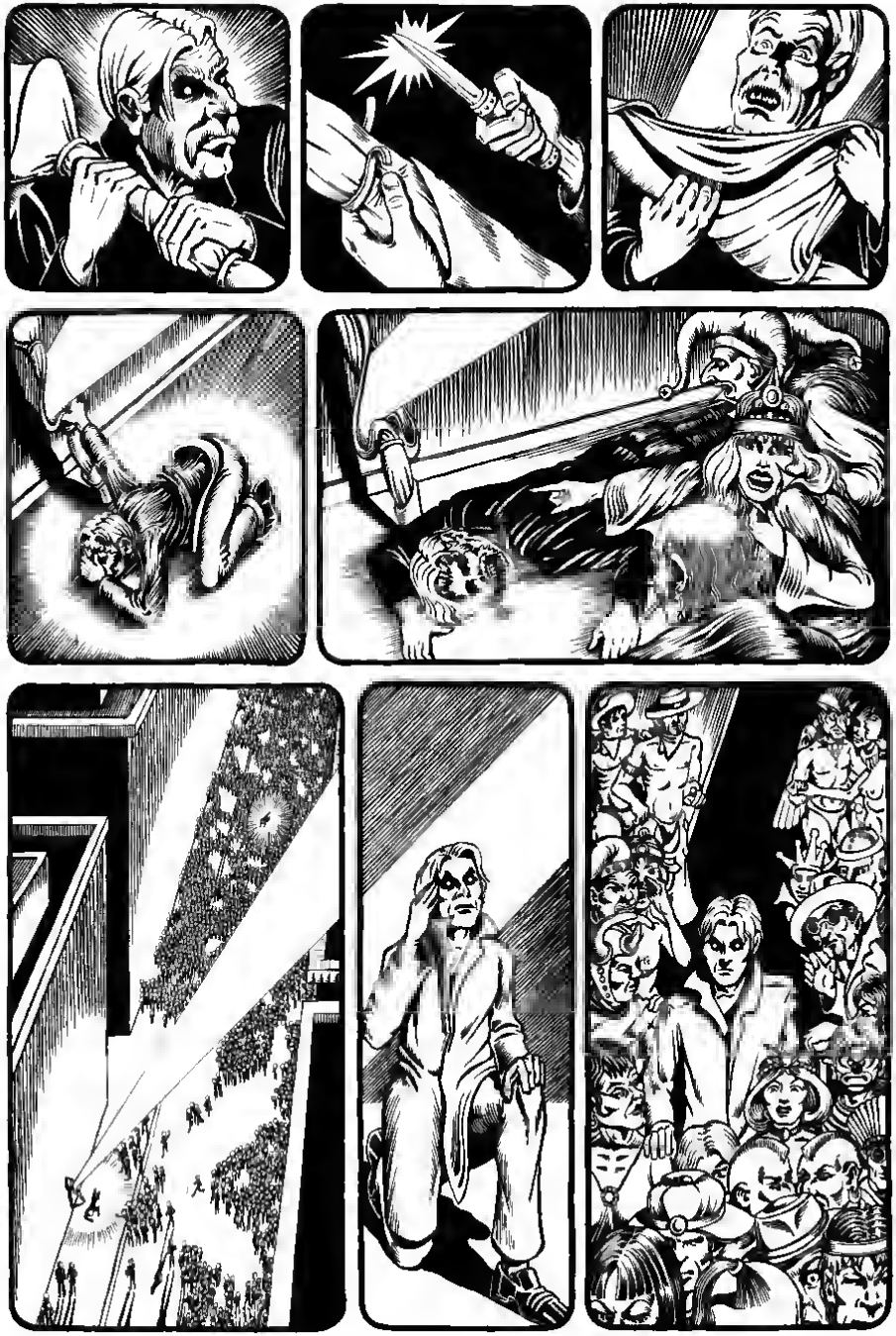
BRADADADADADADA
BU LU, WILL YOU COME WITH ME? WE'LL DRIVE THE TERRANS OFF!
...YES
GOODBYE GU NU!
HAAAUGH
BRADADADADADADADADADADADADADADADADADADADA
POKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOK
BRADADADADA
BRADADA
POKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPO
BRADADADA
POKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOKA
POKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOKA
POKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOKAPOK

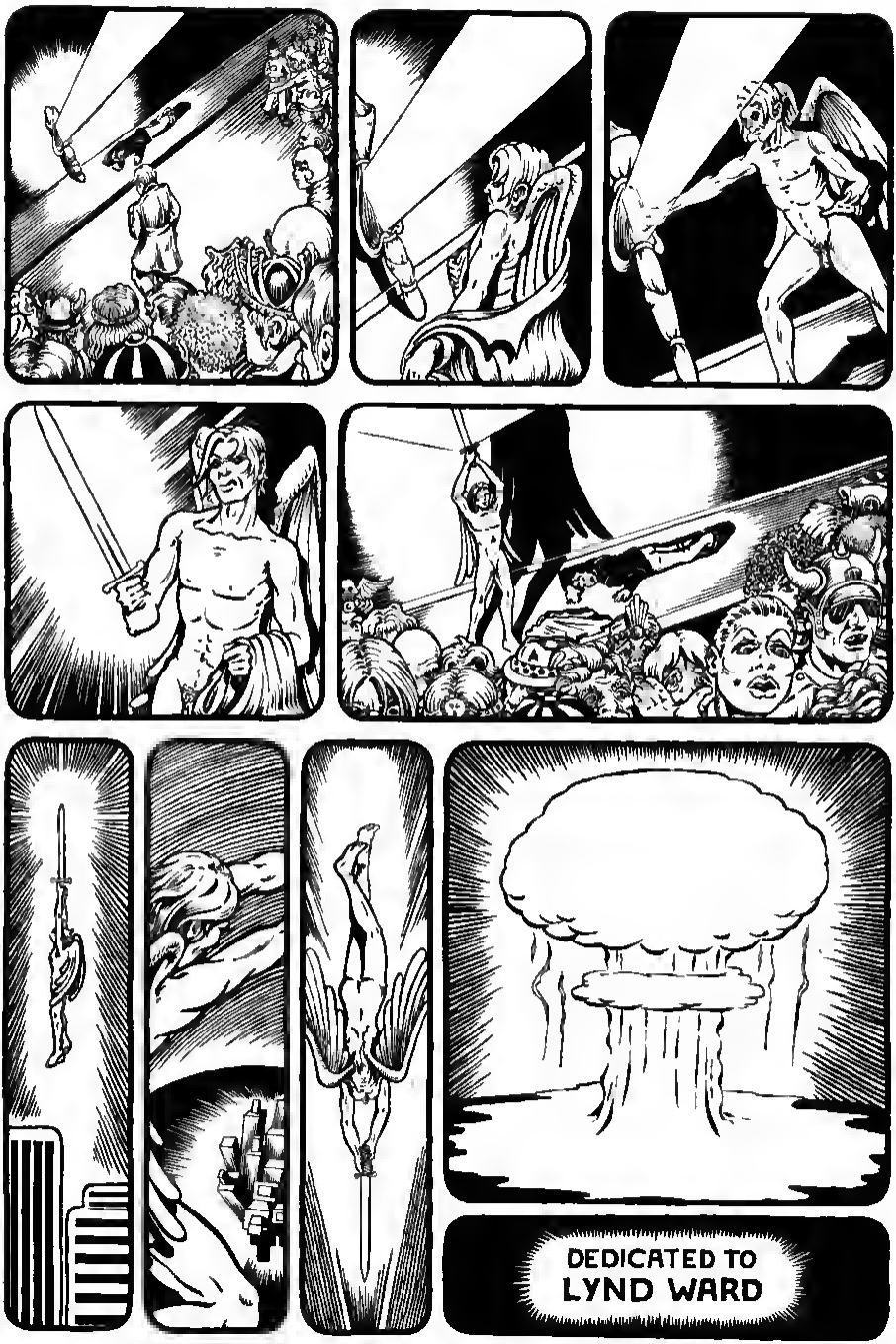
AREN'T YOU GLAD THIS IS JUST A DUMB STORY!
.. (SOB!). EXCUSE ME!
THE END

THE HARBINGER

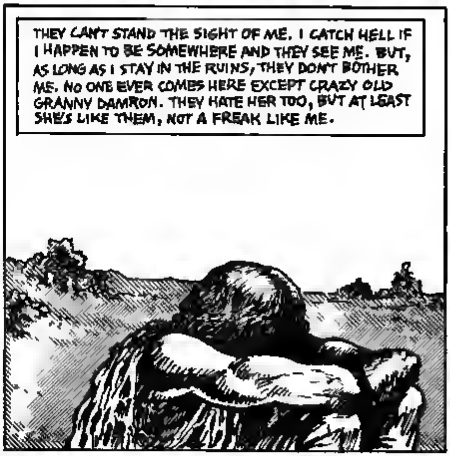
by JIM OSBORNE 1971

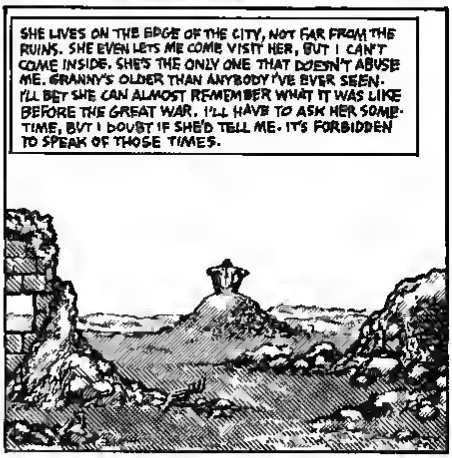


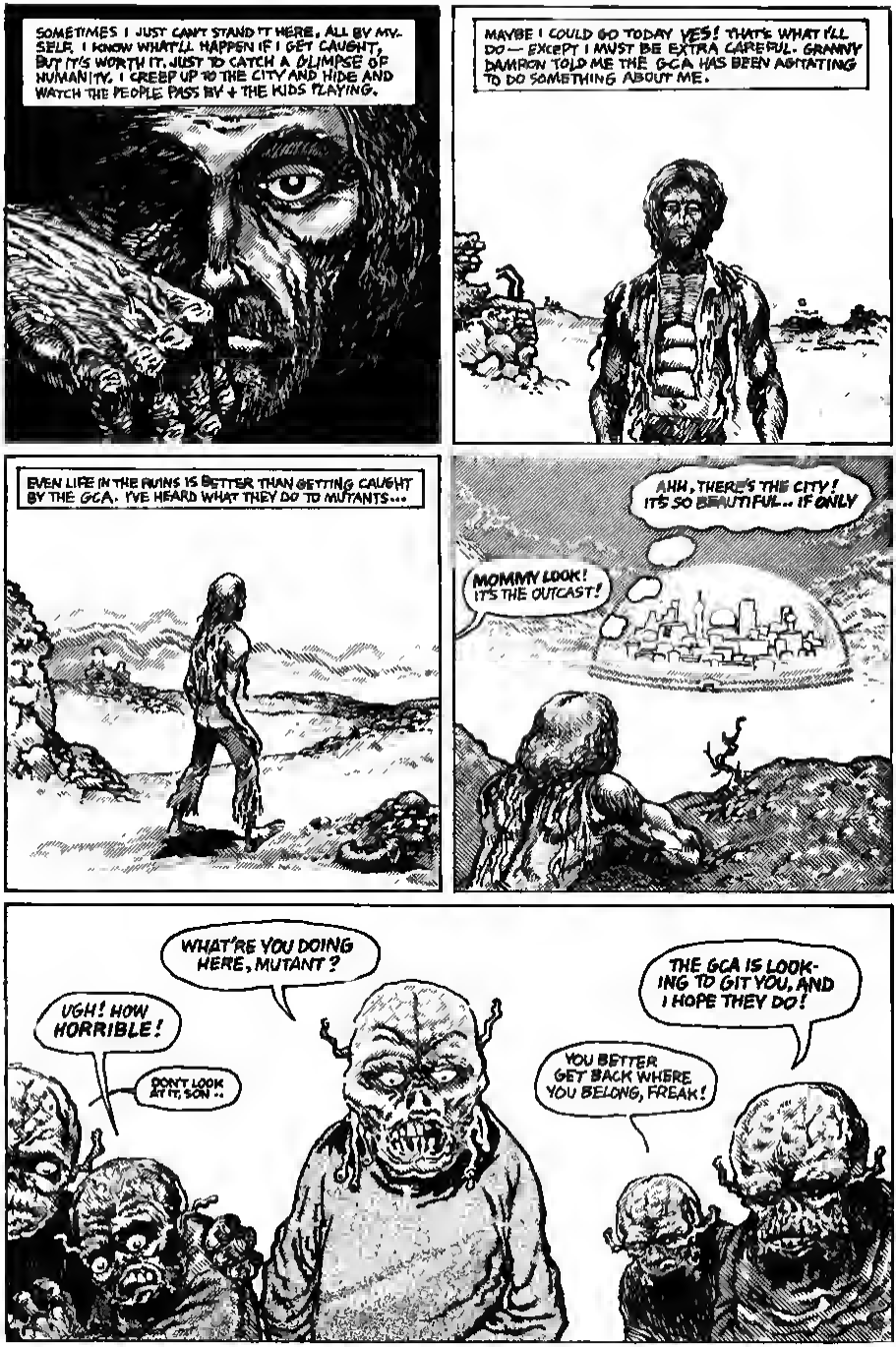



DEDICATED TO
LYND WARD

GENE SHUFFLE



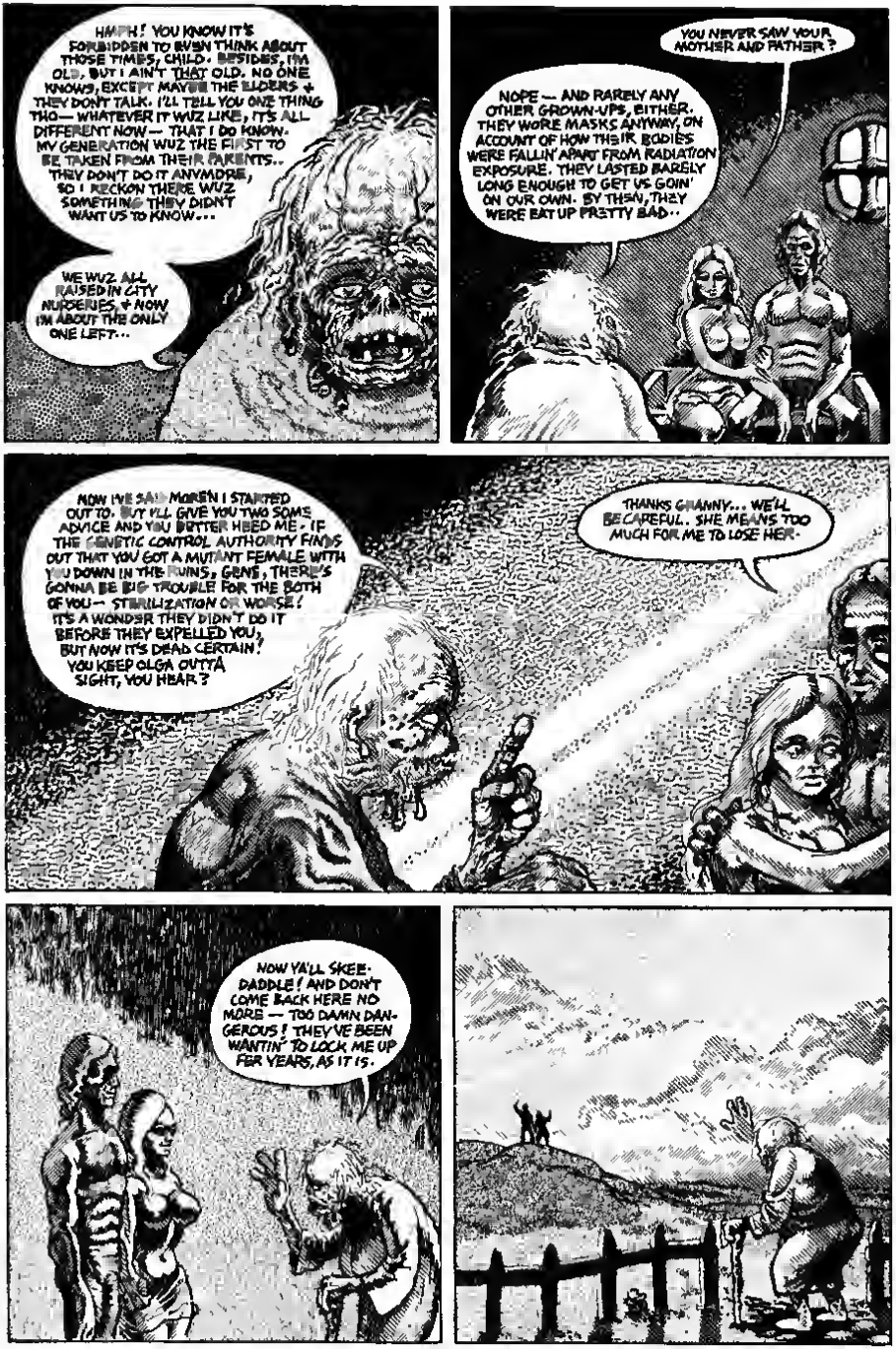



SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T STAND IT HERE. ALL BY MYSELF. I KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF I GET CAUGHT. BUT IT'S WORTH IT. JUST TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HUMANITY. I CREEP UP TO THE CITY AND HIDE AND WATCH THE PEOPLE PASS BY + THE KIDS PLAYING.
MAYBE I COULD GO TODAY. YES! THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO — EXCEPT I MUST BE EXTRA CAREFUL. GRANNY DAMRON TOLD ME THE GCA HAS BEEN AGITATING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT ME.
EVEN LIFE IN THE RUINS IS BETTER THAN GETTING CAUGHT BY THE GCA. I'VE HEARD WHAT THEY DO TO MUTANTS...
AHH, THERE'S THE CITY! IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.. IF ONLY
MOMMY LOOK! IT'S THE OUTCAST!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, MUTANT?
UGH! HOW HORRIBLE!
DON'T LOOK AT IT, SON..
THE GCA IS LOOKING TO GIT YOU, AND I HOPE THEY DO!
YOU BETTER GET BACK WHERE YOU BELONG, FREAK!

FREAK!
THROWBACK!
DISGUSTING CREEP!
THAT'S THE WAY IT ALWAYS IS. IT'LL NEVER CHANGE. I'LL ALWAYS BE ALONE :SOB CHOKE:
HELLO? HELLO THERE, ARE YOU.. GONE?
WHAT?! WHER'? WHO ARE YOU?
I'M A MUTANT— LIKE YOURSELF. I HEARD THAT YOU LIVED HERE... IN THE RUINS. SO WHEN I ESCAPED, I..I.. MY NAME IS OLGA...
OLGA..! I CAN'T BELIEVE.. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE AS.. LIKE YOU!
THEY HAD ME LOCKED AWAY— MY PARENTS— THEY WERE SO ASHAMED OF ME... THEN ONE DAY I HEARD ABOUT YOU, AND I RESOLVED TO TRY& FIND YOU. IF I COULD GET OUT.. AND.. WELL, HERE I AM!
I HOPE.. YOU DON'T MIND, I MEAN, THERE WAS NO PLACE I COULD GO EXCEPT...
MIND?! GOD, IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW I'VE DREAMED FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU— LIKE ME, LIKE US! HAHAHA

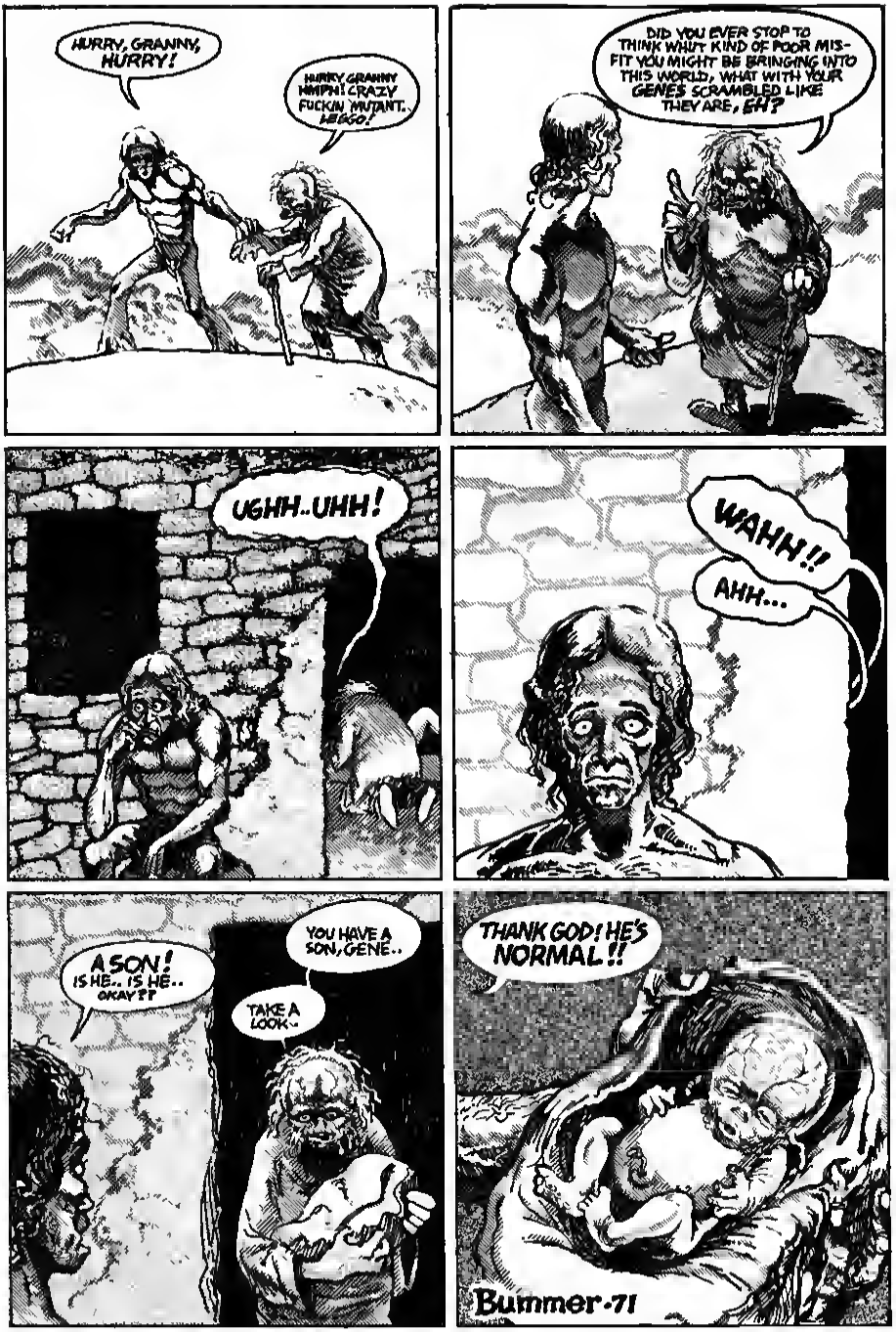
I'VE BEEN SO LONELY FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. I ALMOST WENT CRAZY FOR SOMEONE TO TOUCH ME, HOLD ME, A KIND WORD — ANYTHING! I NEVER IMAGINED A PERSON LIKE YOU EXISTED, EVEN WHEN I HEARD THEM TALKING ABOUT YOU.
OLGA
GENE
HMM... WHAT'S THIS?
OH.. JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING THAT GETS STIFF NOW AND THEN...
LEMME SEE..
IT'S..NICE!
YOU GOT ONE?
NO, JUST THIS..
THAT MIGHT BE JUST ENOUGH..

OO...THAT FEELS GOOD
MMM..
MMM..
MUCH LATER
SAY, THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET. SHE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHERS... I MEAN...SHE'S KIND.
?
YOU'LL SEE... IT'LL BE ALRIGHT.. GRANNY! IT'S GENE! GENE SHUFFLE!!
EH? GENE! MY GOD BOY, WHO'S THAT WITH YUH?
THIS IS OLGA, GRANNY. SHE'S COME TO LIVE WITH ME— IN THE RUINS.
WELL DON'T JUST STAND OUT THERE, SON..SOMEBODY MIGHT SPOT YUH. COME ON INSIDE!
BY GORRY... ANOTHER MUTANT.. AND A FEMALE AT THAT! NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY!
GRANNY, I BEEN WANTIN' TO ASK YOU.. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEFORE, BEFORE THE RADIATION?


HMPH! YOU KNOW IT'S FORBIDDEN TO EVEN THINK ABOUT THOSE TIMES, CHILD. BESIDES, I'M OLD. BUT I AIN'T THAT OLD. NO ONE KNOWS, EXCEPT MAYBE THE ELDERS + THEY DON'T TALK. I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING THO— WHATEVER IT WUZ LIKE, IT'S ALL DIFFERENT NOW— THAT I DO KNOW. MY GENERATION WUZ THE FIRST TO BE TAKEN FROM THEIR PARENTS.. THEY DON'T DO IT ANYMORE, SO I RECKON THERE WUZ SOMETHING THEY DIDN'T WANT US TO KNOW...
WE WUZ ALL RAISED IN CITY NURSERIES, + NOW I'M ABOUT THE ONLY ONE LEFT...
YOU NEVER SAW YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER?
NOPE — AND RARELY ANY OTHER GROWN-UPS, EITHER. THEY WORE MASKS ANYWAY, ON ACCOUNT OF HOW THEIR BODIES WERE FALLIN' APART FROM RADIATION EXPOSURE. THEY LASTED BARELY LONG ENOUGH TO GET US GOIN' ON OUR OWN. BY THEN, THEY WERE BAT UP PRETTY BAD..
NOW I'VE SAID MORE'N I STARTED OUT TO. BUT I'LL GIVE YOU TWO SOME ADVICE AND YOU BETTER HEED ME. IF THE GENETIC CONTROL AUTHORITY FINDS OUT THAT YOU GOT A MUTANT FEMALE WITH YOU DOWN IN THE RUINS, GENS, THERE'S GONNA BE BIG TROUBLE FOR THE BOTH OF YOU— STERILIZATION OR WORSE! IT'S A WONDER THEY DIDN'T DO IT BEFORE THEY EXPELLED YOU, BUT NOW IT'S DEAD CERTAIN! YOU KEEP OLGA OUTTA SIGHT, YOU HEAR?
THANKS GRANNY... WE'LL BE CAREFUL.. SHE MEANS TOO MUCH FOR ME TO LOSE HER.
NOW YA'LL SKEE-DADDLE! AND DON'T COME BACK HERE NO MORE — TOO DAMN DANGEROUS! THEY'VE BEEN WANTIN' TO LOCK ME UP FER YEARS, AS IT IS.

GENE?
GENE, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T I MAKE YOU HAPPY?
IT'S NOT THAT, OLGA.. IT'S.. WELL, I'VE BEEN THINKING. YOU'RE BOUND TO GET PREGNANT, BALLING LIKE WE DO. WHAT.. WHAT IF OUR BABY COMES OUT ALL WRONG, FUCKED UP?
WE MUSTN'T THINK LIKE THAT, DEAREST. WE HAVE EACH OTHER, NO MATTER WHAT..
BUT THE CHILD, OLGA. THINK OF THE CHILD...
AND SURE ENOUGH..
GENE.. IT'S STARTED. HELP ME GENE..

GOD, I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT CHILDBIRTH.. WHAT AM I GONNA DO?? GRANNY!!... GRANNY WOULD KNOW!
OLGA — I'M GOING TO GET GRANNY. SHE'LL HELP US. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. HOLD EVERYTHING!
GRANNY-Y!
GRANNY! GASP! OLGA'S HAVIN' OUR BABY! AHSP! YOU'VE GOT TO COME — I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! GASP! PLEASE HELP US, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
HMPH! I KNEW IT'D COME TO THIS! I SHOULDA TOLD THE GCA ABOUT YOU TWO.. OH, ALL RIGHT! I'M TOO OLD TO WORRY ABOUT DYIN' ANYWAY, C'MMON!!


HURRY, GRANNY, HURRY!
HURRY GRANNY HMPH! CRAZY FUCKIN MUTANT.. HEGO!
DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK WHUT KIND OF POOR MIS-FIT YOU MIGHT BE BRINGING INTO THIS WORLD, WHAT WITH YOUR GENES SCRAMBLED LIKE THEY ARE, EH?
UGHH..UHH!
WAHH!!
AHH...
ASON! IS HE.. IS HE.. OKAY??
YOU HAVE A SON, GENE..
TAKE A LOOK..
THANK GOD! HE'S NORMAL!!
Bummer·71

GOD, AM I HUNGRY! IF I SIT HERE LONG ENOUGH, SUMTIN GONNA COME BY AN I'LL CATCH IT.
HEIRS OF EARTH
GORE ?
A SHADOW! NO BOY!
I'LL JUMP OUT AN CRACK IT ONNA HEAD.
HEYAAUGH
CRACK
AAWWW IT'S ONLY YOU, ZOOBY!
OOOW!
I MAY JUST EATCHA ANYWAY!
GNARF! YOU DAMN DUMMY I FOUND A PLACE WITH FOOD!
IT'S NOT TOO FAR LET'S GO!

THIS IS IT!
I'M STILL HUNGRY!
SIT OVER THERE! I'LL GET THE FOOD!
I FOUND THIS PLACE THE OTHER DAY. DUN KNOW WHO FIXED IT UP LIKE THIS!
WE COULD STAY HERE 'TIL THESE SUPPLIES RUN OUT...
CLICK
BLAM
HEY FRANG! I KNOW WHERE THERE'S SUMPTIN BETTER TO EAT THAN THAT!

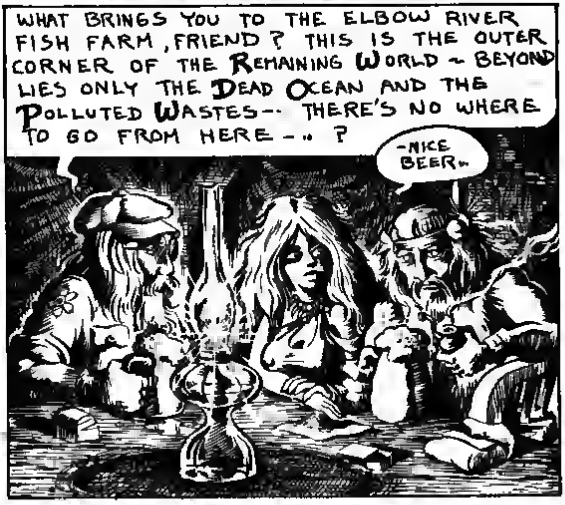
The Sleeping Continent

FIRST IN A SERIES OF EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF URTH, RECENTLY FOUND ORBITING THE MOON.

In those days, only one third of the Earth bore life and confusion and fear were upon the land. And there went forth out of the East a wanderer who had been a student of minor wizardry..

PUT UM UP QUICK, DUDE - AH AIM T' OWN THAT THERE COAT O' YOURS AN AH DON'T MEAN FOR FREE!
I DON'T WANNA BUM YOUR TRIP BY NOT FIGHTIN' YOU, MAN-
--I DON'T WANNA GET MY ASS KILLED!
-BUT ON THE OTHER HAND --
WHU-!?
BLOCK!
FOOO OOOOOSHH

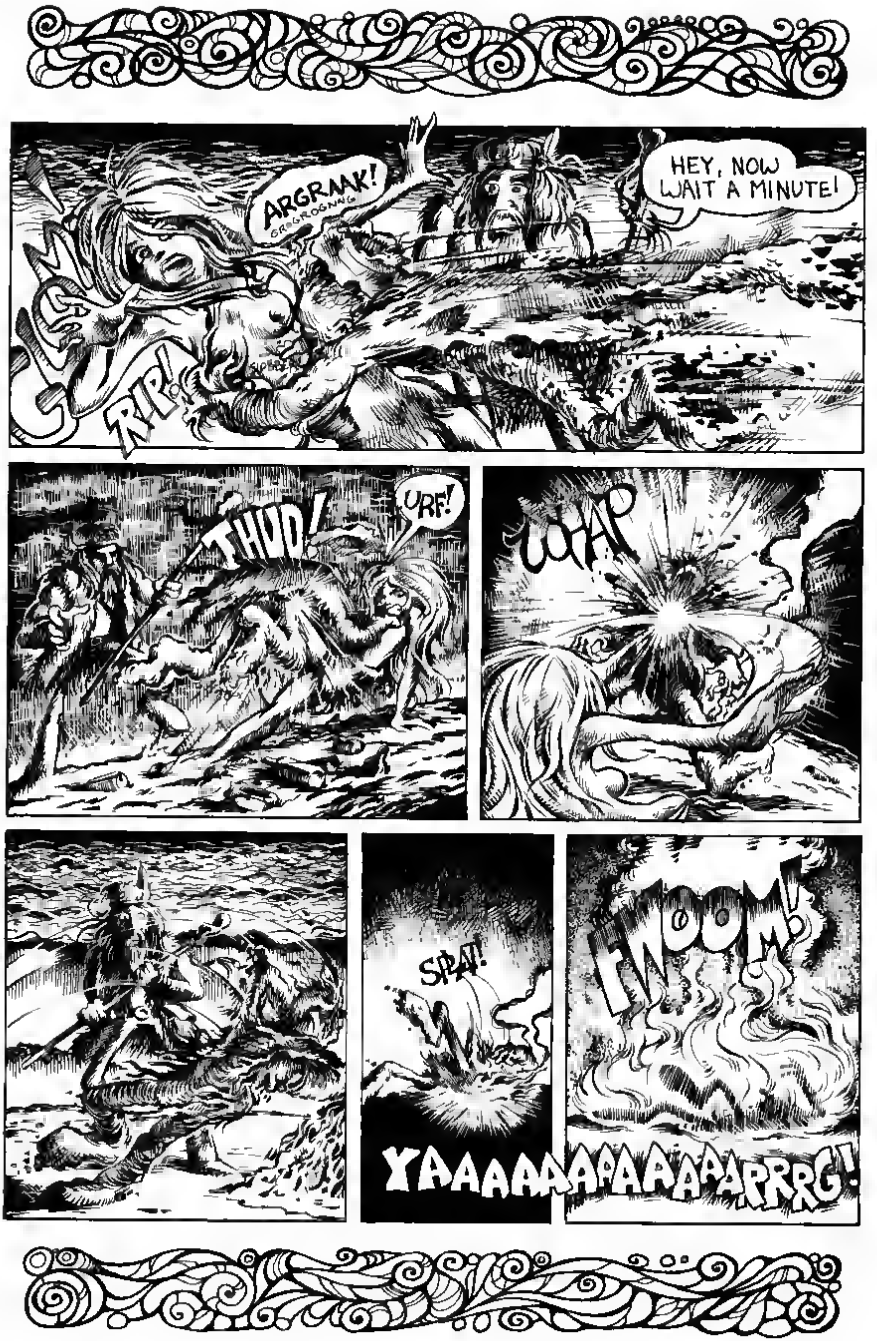
--ANYWAY - YOU'LL LIKE THIS BETTER... YOU'LL COME DOWN IN AN HOUR OR SO..
HEH, HEH
PAPPOLE-


WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE ELBOW RIVER FISH FARM, FRIEND? THIS IS THE OUTER CORNER OF THE REMAINING WORLD - BEYOND LIES ONLY THE DEAD OCEAN AND THE POLLUTED WASTES-- THERE'S NO WHERE TO GO FROM HERE --..?
-NICE BEER-

FAR TO THE WEST OF THE REMAINING WORLD, IN THE VERY MIDST OF THE POLLUTED WASTES... LEGENDS SPEAK OF A GREAT AND SHINING CITY - A PLACE OF IMMEASURABLE WEALTH AND KNOWLEDGE ... A GLEAMING FRAGMENT OF THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION — SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY LIES THE FOUNTAIN OF CONSCIOUSNESS — THAT WHICH WILL GRANT ITS DRINKER THE POWER TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION.. AND TO KNOW THE UNKNOWABLE RELATION OF TIME AND SPACE.... IT IS THAT I SEEK..

-FAR OUT - BUT HOW YOU GONNA MAKE IT THROUGH THE POLLUTED WASTES? THAT'S BAD SHIT, MAN-!
OH, I DUNNO - I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING -
-HERE, LEMME FILL THIS PIPE AGAIN-
MMMMM..
WHY DONCHA STICK AROUND? THAT OL' CITY CAN WAIT -
NAW - I GOTTA FULFILL MY DESTINY - I'LL BE BACK, THO -
OOOMAN
AW, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT - I AIN'T LEAVIN' TILL MORNING --
MORNING..
HOLY SHIT FUCK!! WE'RE IN THE POLLUTED ZONE! WAKE UP - YOU FUCKER!
MMH MMH WHA ?

SHIT- WE'RE DOOMED- NO ONE HAS EVER COME BACK FROM HERE ALIVE--
DON'T PANIC--
-AT LEAST WE STILL GOT SOME WINE LEFT-!
!?-LOOK!
UH- HI!- HOWDY--! WE'VE -UH- LOST OUR WAY.. AND-UH WE WERE WONDER ING-
--HAVE YOU SEEN A CITY AROUND HERE - YOU KNOW, BIG - AND SHINY--
-MY NAME'S GORAK I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU -THAT IS--
SNURF?
Y'SEE, SIR.


ARGRAAK!
GRRROOONG
HEY, NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
RIP!
THUD!
YRF!
WHAP
SPAT!
YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRG!
KWOOM!

PYEW!
HE MUSTA DRANK TOO MUCH OF THIS SHIT-!
"OH, SHIT-
GIANT COCK-ROACHES!
LET'S GET TH' FUCK OUTA HERE-!
QUICK-HOP ON!
WHOOSH
THIS CERTAINY IS A LARGE BIRD YOU HAVE HERE-

IT'S LUCKY I PICKED YOU UP- THOSE DEVILS WOULD'VE HAD YOU FOR LUNCH!
WHERE YA HEADIN?
-THE CITY OF ARKTRON- CAPITOL OF THE WORLD AND THE FLOWER OF CIVILIZATION- WE WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY-
DRALAH SKK-XX RZRRA- ---
SOMEHOW- IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN I IMAGINED IT-
-YOU ARE NOW MY PRISONERS YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE-
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT CITY?

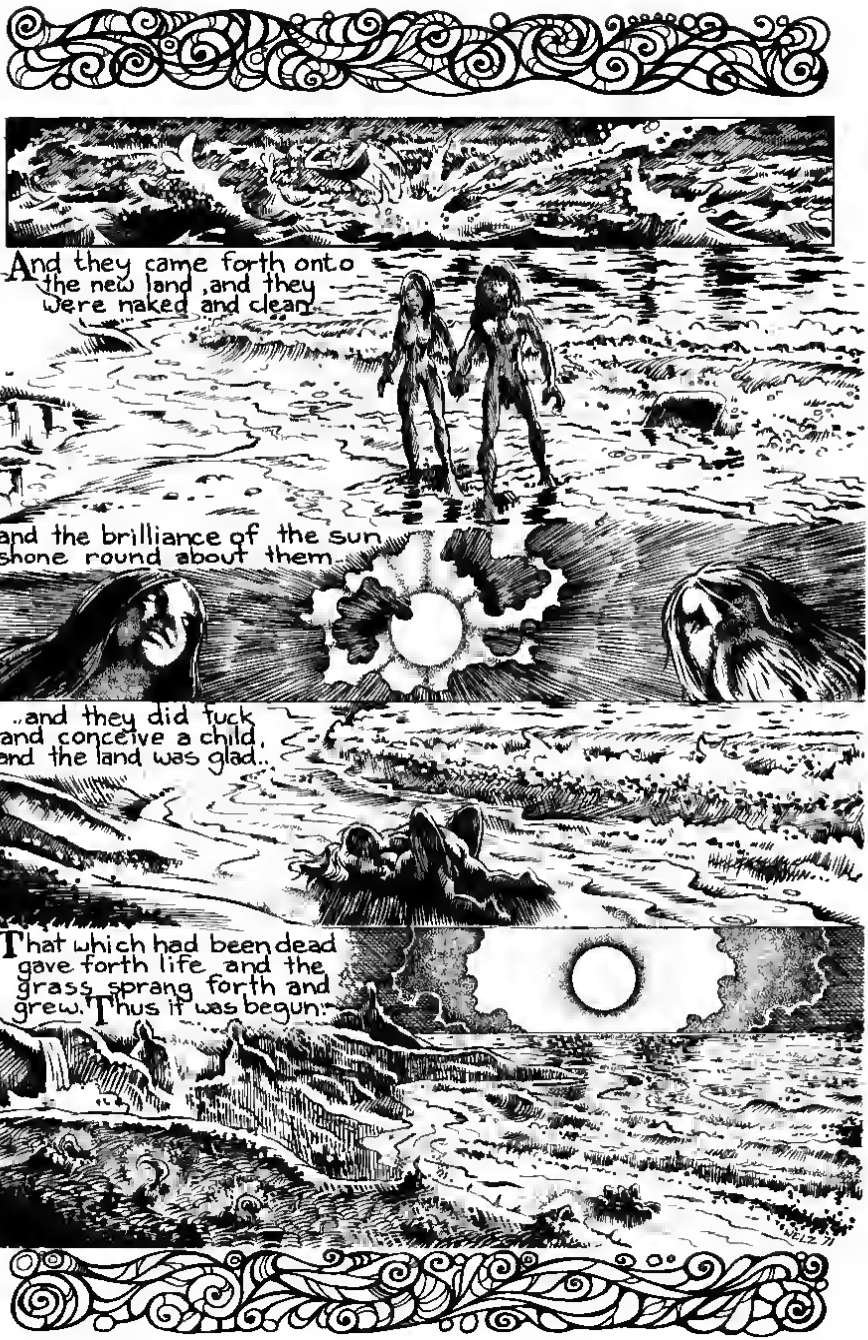
EXCELLENCY, I FOUND THESE CREATURES TRESPASSING ON OUR GLORIOUS NATIONAL PARK-!
NERDIE
GRABLOCK HSSGOGGZ MMBLRQ AK! UNGAGA
THE PRESIDENT ORDERS THAT THE GIRL BE TAKEN TO THE SACRIFICIAL CHAMBER-
SLEEP-OKAY-
AND THE MAN CREATURE IS TO BE TAKEN TO THE LABORATORY FOR EXPERIMENTATION

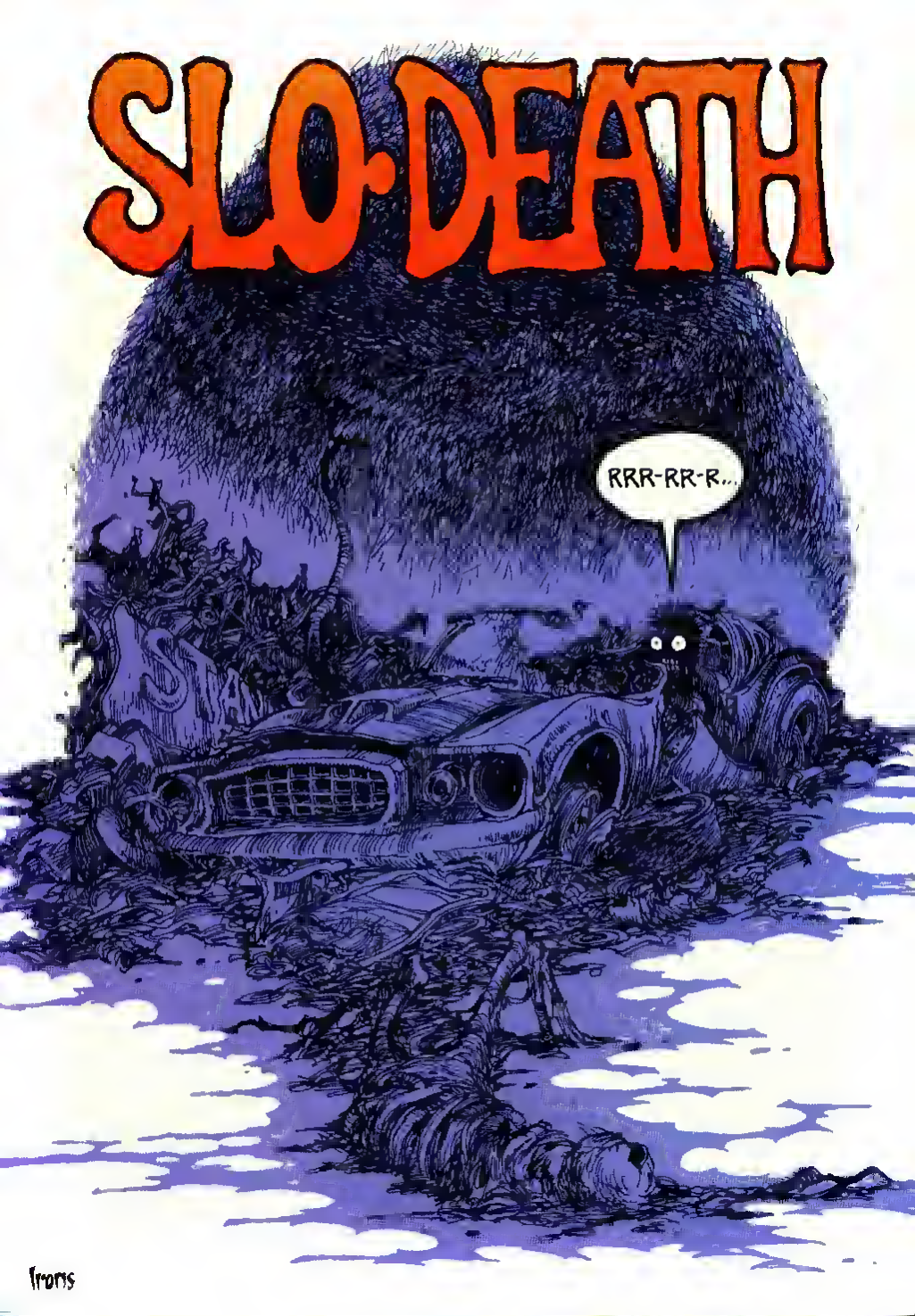
A DOORWAY!
THWOCK!
EAT SHIT-ASSHOLES!
-PULLING A VIAL FROM HIS POUCH..
FOOL! YOU DARE?!
WHACK!
KPLOW!
URK-!
KOFF!
CHOKE
RATTLE
GURGLE
THUD!
HERE, BREATHE SOME OF THESE HERBS-IT'LL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH OF TEN- BUT ONLY FOR A FEW SECONDS-

C'MON - LET'S SPLIT!
DOWN AND DOWN THEY GO, UNTIL SUDDENLY, IN A ROUND CHAMBER, GLOWING WITH ITS OWN EERIE LIGHT— THEY SEE IT—
- THE FOUNTAIN OF CONSCIOUSNESS!

CR RRAK!
SLURT
GUSH!
POW!

IN ONE SUSTAINED, CATACLYSMIC, DEAFENING ROAR THE ENTIRE CITY IS ENGULFED BY THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE CLEAR WATERS OF THE FOUNTAIN OF CONSCIOUSNESS THAT NOW GUSH FORTH IN AN AWESOMELY DESTRUCTIVE TIDAL WAVE, CLEANSING EVERYTHING IN IT'S PATH AND LEAVING BEHIND IT ~ RISING LIKE A PHOENIX OUT OF A BLOOD-RED SEA ~ THE NEW CONTINENT, CLEAN AND FRESH AND FERTILE - THUS COMPLETING THE CYCLE AND BEGINNING ONCE AGAIN — A NEW AGE...


And they came forth onto the new land, and they were naked and clean.
and the brilliance of the sun shone round about them.
..and they did fuck and conceive a child, and the land was glad..
That which had been dead gave forth life and the grass sprang forth and grew. Thus it was begun.


SLO-DEATH
RRR-RR-R...
Ironis